



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. JOSEPH C. LORIGO

10TH DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

MAJORITY LEADER

January 28, 2015

Hon. Mark Poloncarz
Erie County Executive
95 Franklin St. – 16th Floor
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Mr. Poloncarz,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark", is written over the name "Mr. Poloncarz".

The Legislature is in receipt of your letter withdrawing Carol Dankert-Maurer for consideration to the position as Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health. Thank you for that correspondence.

While withdrawing Ms. Dankert-Maurer's name is not entirely unexpected after last week's Health & Human Services Committee Meeting, I find your complete reversal surprising. In the past, you have ardently supported Ms. Dankert-Maurer as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services and as your new Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health.

Furthermore, your communication withdrawing Ms. Dankert-Maurer's name is brief, to say the least. Nowhere in your letter did you indicate your reason for withdrawing her name. You simply indicate that we should contact your chief of staff with any questions. I would like to hear your reasoning, as I believe understanding why Ms. Dankert-Maurer's name was withdrawn will help in any evaluation of future candidates.

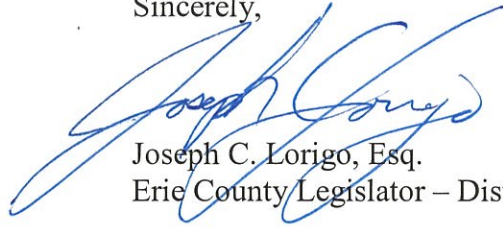
In addition, I would like to voice my support for increasing the scope of your search for new Commissioners for the Departments of Social Services and Mental Health. As I'm sure you are aware, these two departments affect many of our most vulnerable residents, and therefore deserve the utmost qualified candidates in leadership positions.

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If the Legislature can be of any assistance in the search, please do not hesitate to seek our help. Additionally, I look forward to your response as to why Ms. Dankert-Maurer's name was withdrawn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph C. Lorigo". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Lorigo" clearly legible.

Joseph C. Lorigo, Esq.
Erie County Legislator – District 10